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DIRECTORATE OF
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Current Intelligence Digest

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(Information as of 1200 EST)

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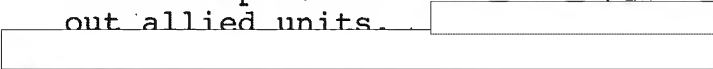
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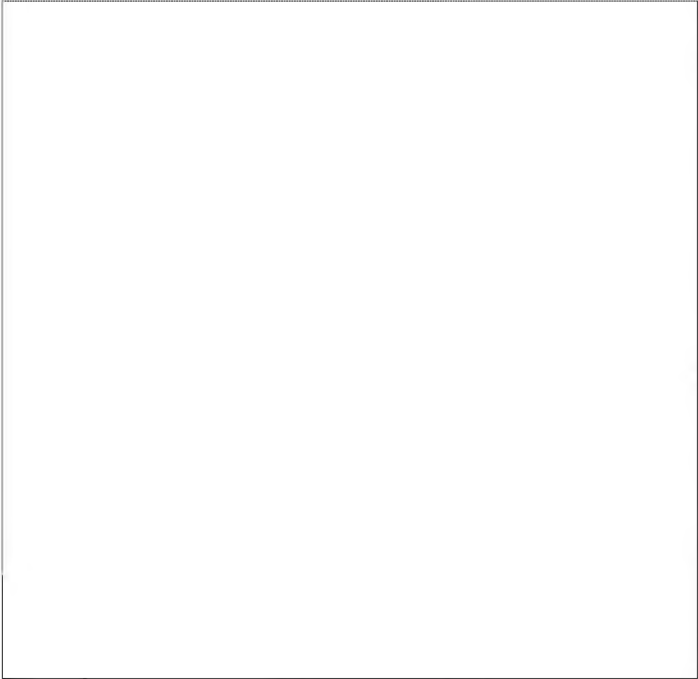
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NOTES

 South Vietnam: First reports on Operation CORONADO IX indicate that 235 Viet Cong were killed in a day-long battle on 4 December in the Mekong Delta some 66 miles southwest of Saigon. The recent upsurge of enemy activity in the Mekong Delta may well be part of a country-wide offensive aimed at demonstrating Communist military capabilities and at proving to the populace that South Vietnamese authorities are unable to provide effective security. Along with the threat from main force units in the central highlands, northern III Corps, and the Demilitarized Zone, these small-scale activities help to tie down and spread out allied units. 





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